

ALL IN COLOUR - MAKES LEARNING A JOY

Once Upon a Time

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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PRICE 1/3



Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs



1. Because she had taken a bite out of a poisoned apple given to her by the wicked Queen, poor Snow White did not breathe or move. She lay in a glass coffin on a mound of earth outside the mountain-mine of the Seven Dwarfs. Bare-headed and with tears in their eyes, the little men sang a sad hymn of sorrow and their voices brought a young Prince on to the scene.

2. "Poor sweet girl—how beautiful she looks," sighed the handsome Prince. "What happened to her?" When they had ended their hymn of sadness, the Seven Dwarfs spoke in hushed voices and told the Prince about the wicked-Queen, Snow White's step-mother. "Twice she tried but failed to harm Snow White," they said. "But now, at the third try, she has unhappily succeeded."



3. The Prince looked at Snow White for a long time. "Although she is not alive, I have fallen deeply in love with her," he said to the Seven Dwarfs. "I cannot bear to be parted from her, so please let me take her to my palace." The sad little men were so touched by this that they agreed and picked up the coffin.



4. But as they did so, the glass coffin slipped from the heap of earth and one end poked on the ground. It was this sudden bump that jerked the piece of poisoned apple out of Snow White's throat and she sat up and looked around. "Wonder of wonders, she lives!" shouted the Seven Dwarfs. "Snow White is alive!"



5. The Prince rushed forward and, gathering Snow White in his strong arms, he lifted her on to the saddle of his horse. "What I said about falling deeply in love was true," he said. "Now I shall take her to my palace—and Snow White shall become the loveliest Queen of all." Now the Seven Dwarfs capered around with joy, filling their hats with flowers and cheering loudly.

What will the magic mirror say? More of this lovely Snow White story next week.



6. Meanwhile, in the Royal Palace, the wicked Queen stood in an open window, looking out over the kingdom. "Snow White will never be heard of again," she said. "Now it is certain that I am the loveliest in all the land. There is no one else as beautiful as me—but just to make sure I will speak again to the magic mirror on the wall and hear its truthful answer."



Much visited by foreign tourists and the Japanese themselves are the ancient buildings, such as these in a place called Kyoto. They are built of wood and tiles and the Japanese are careful to keep them in good repair, exactly as they were first built.



Children of the World

Meet Taro and Yuki who live in

JAPAN

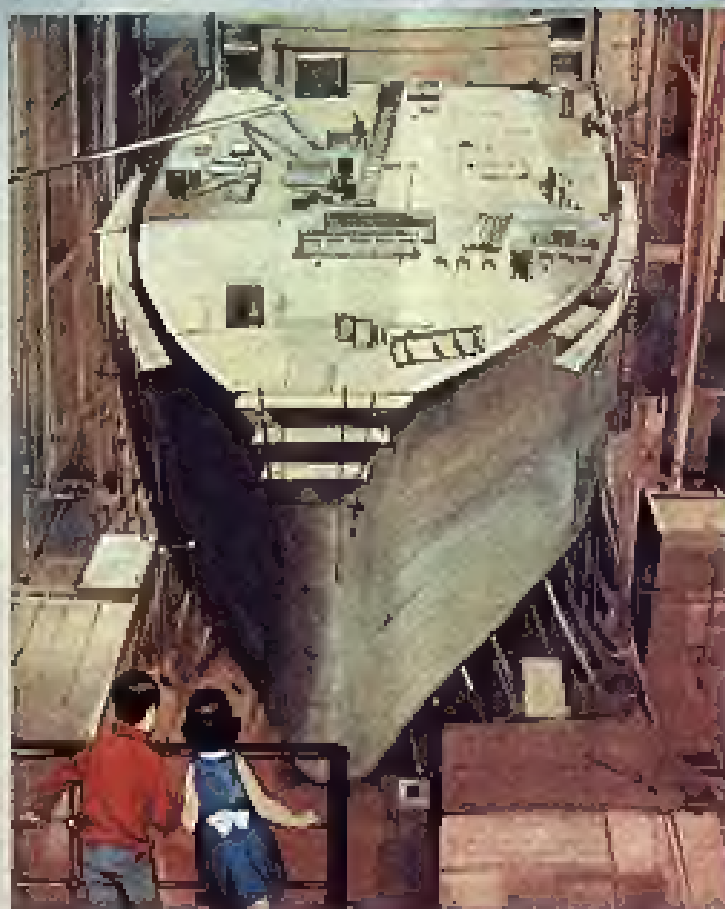
Japan is made up of many islands. There are about 3,300 in all, but only the largest are shown in the map above. On the globe you can see Japan's place in the world. In Japan, Taro is much liked as a name for a boy and Yuki for a girl. The family name of Taro and Yuki is Sato. They live in Tokyo, the capital city, in which more people live than in any other city in the world. Though Japan has become very modern, the people still like the old customs.



The Japanese grown-ups and children are fond of beautiful things, and they love flowers. Much time is spent in arranging flower displays and Yuki has been taught how to do this.

On the right Taro and Yuki are watching rice being planted. The young plants are pushed into the mud at the bottom of a flooded "paddy" field.





Japan is now famous for building ships and some of the biggest oil-tankers in the world have been launched from the shipyards. Taro is very excited as he takes his sister Yuki along to look at a monster ship being built on the slipway.

If you visit Japan you will see many of these strange gateways, either on land or in water. They are sacred gateways and in Japanese language are called "torii".



The picture on the right shows the Sato family at home in the evening with father, mother and the two children Taro and Yuki. It is then that they like to change their clothes to the old Japanese style of dress and they usually squat on mats on the floor to eat their meals or talk.



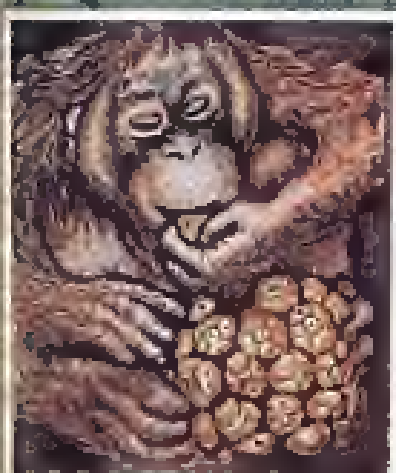
It's fun for the children as they stroll round a Tokyo side-street.





The Wild Man of the woods

In Borneo, the name "orang-utan" means "man of the woods". These interesting creatures, although not as intelligent as chimpanzees, are very handy in their behaviour. One of the small pictures shows a baby orang-utan holding a leaf over his head to keep off the hot sun.



The orang-utan has a body covered with long, reddish-brown hair. Its legs are short, but its arms are long and can easily reach out far branches as it swings through the trees of the swampy forest in which the orang-utan lives. This "man of the woods" is not really wild in the sense that it is bad-tempered, but if it is attacked it can be a fierce fighter. At sunset, the orang-utan family goes to rest in nests in the trees. They like to feed on fruit and young plant-shoots that are juicy and tender. When next you visit a zoo, have a good look at the orang-utans. A fully-grown one stands about four and a half feet high, but with arms stretched it can reach up to a height of seven feet or more.

LESLIE
FIELD
PARSONS

Well, Fancy That!



Do you know why this type of horse is called a "pinto"? These splendid animals look as if they have been splashed with black or brown paint on white—and "pinto" is a Spanish word for "paint". Pintos come from countries like Mexico and Argentina, where Spanish is the language spoken.



This magnificent bird is called a kite. Long ago, it was forbidden to kill kites because they kept the streets clean by eating thrown-away rubbish.



Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt, was not an Egyptian—she was a Greek. Our picture shows her first meeting with Mark Antony, a great Roman general.

This is a Memory Test. When you have read the story, turn to page 16 and test your memory by trying to answer the questions you will find there.

Aylesford Bridge

DO you know much about the county of Kent? It is in the south-east corner of England and if you stand on the white cliffs of Dover you will be at your nearest point to France, only about 22 miles away across the English Channel.

Walkers to Kent, like Roger and his elder sister Juliet, find that there are many lovely places they can see on horseback. Roger, who likes to show off a little, said to Juliet at breakfast one morning:

"What's the difference between a man of Kent and a Kentish man?"

"No difference at all that I can think of," Juliet answered after thinking for a few moments. "They're both the same."

"Oh, no they are not," smiled Roger. "A man of Kent is someone born to the east of the River Medway, and a Kentish man is a man who lives in west Kent."

"That's something I didn't know," said Juliet. "But it gives me an idea. Why don't we take a ride and find the River Medway? As a matter of fact I've been looking at a map and there is a place called Aylesford on the banks of the river, only a little more than three miles from Maidstone."

They set off. It was a pleasant, warm day and both Roger and Juliet were delighted with what they saw when they reached the red-roofed village of Aylesford.

Above the red roofs they could see a church with a square tower, but what caught their eye most was the sight of a bridge over the River Medway.

"It's got a lovely, long central arch," said Roger, "and if you ask me, I'd say it was fifty old."

"And you would be right," nodded Juliet, who had been having a shy peep at a small guide-book she carried in her pocket. "Now it's my turn to tell YOU something. Aylesford Bridge was actually built in the 14th century, which makes it at least 600 years old."

They sat in their saddles looking at the famous old bridge, while Juliet's pony crunched the sweet grass on the river bank, and a proud swan sailed by on the water with three cygnet babies playing follow-my-leader behind her.

That visit to Aylesford Bridge was something Roger and Juliet enjoyed very much.





D. C. KYLE

The talking Bluebird



1 One day, while riding through a wood, a young man came upon a bluebird caught in a trap-net and he gently released it. To his surprise he heard the bluebird say "For your goodness of heart, you are able to understand the language of animals."



2 Graciously wondering, he went on through the woods. "Another poor traveller who will be robbed by those bandits waiting ahead, just a voice. Looking up, he saw two squirrels chatting as they shared a nut. "How lucky I can understand," he said.



3 So he took another path through the trees, until he came and passed the spot where the robbers were hiding. This gift of mine is worth something," he thought. Then he saw a fine lady riding along with her maid. "Stop, my lady," he shouted.



4 He tried to warn her of the danger ahead, but the proud and beautiful lady turned him away. "How dare you speak to me, you ruffian!" she said. "I am the Countess Barbara and I do not speak in common talk. This made the young man very angry.



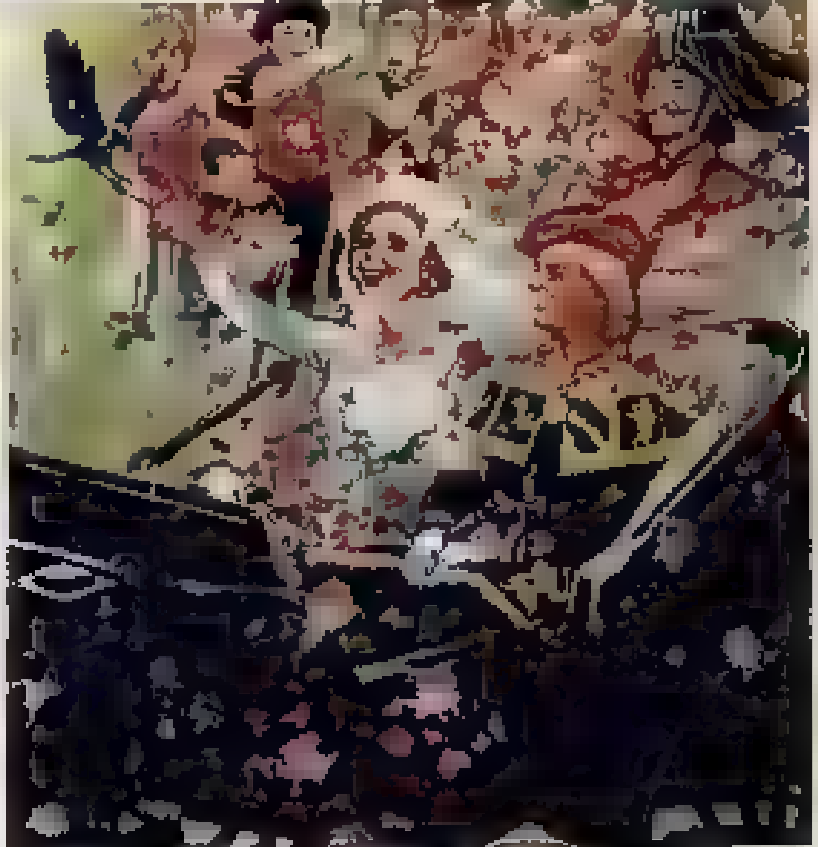
6 Just as you wish, Countess, he said. But he followed the riders at a distance, for he could not let them see the robbers alone. After a while, however, the Countess saw him. Go away at once, she snapped.



6 At that very moment the robbers sprang out of hiding. There were three of them and the Countess was very frightened. However the young man urged his horse towards them with such loud cries that the robbers thought he was leading a dozen armed men.



7 As the robbers turned and fled, Countess Barbara swallowed all her pride. "Know and gallant young man," she said. "You must come with me to my father's castle, where you will be received with all honour."



8 So the young man was given the post of bodyguard to the fair countess. Later they fell in love and were married—and they were the only two who ever knew that the young man could understand the speech of animals. Apart from the bluebird, that is.



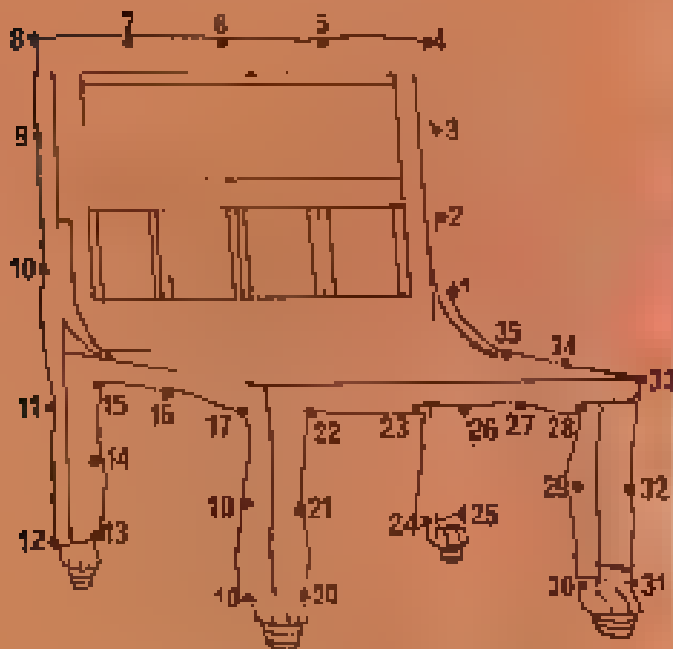
Beautiful Paintings

The title of this lovely picture, which was painted by artist David Teniers, is "Fiesta at Luganero." It shows a happy scene in a Spanish village, where all the people—birds, insects and peasants—have gathered together for a day of dancing and feasting, perhaps

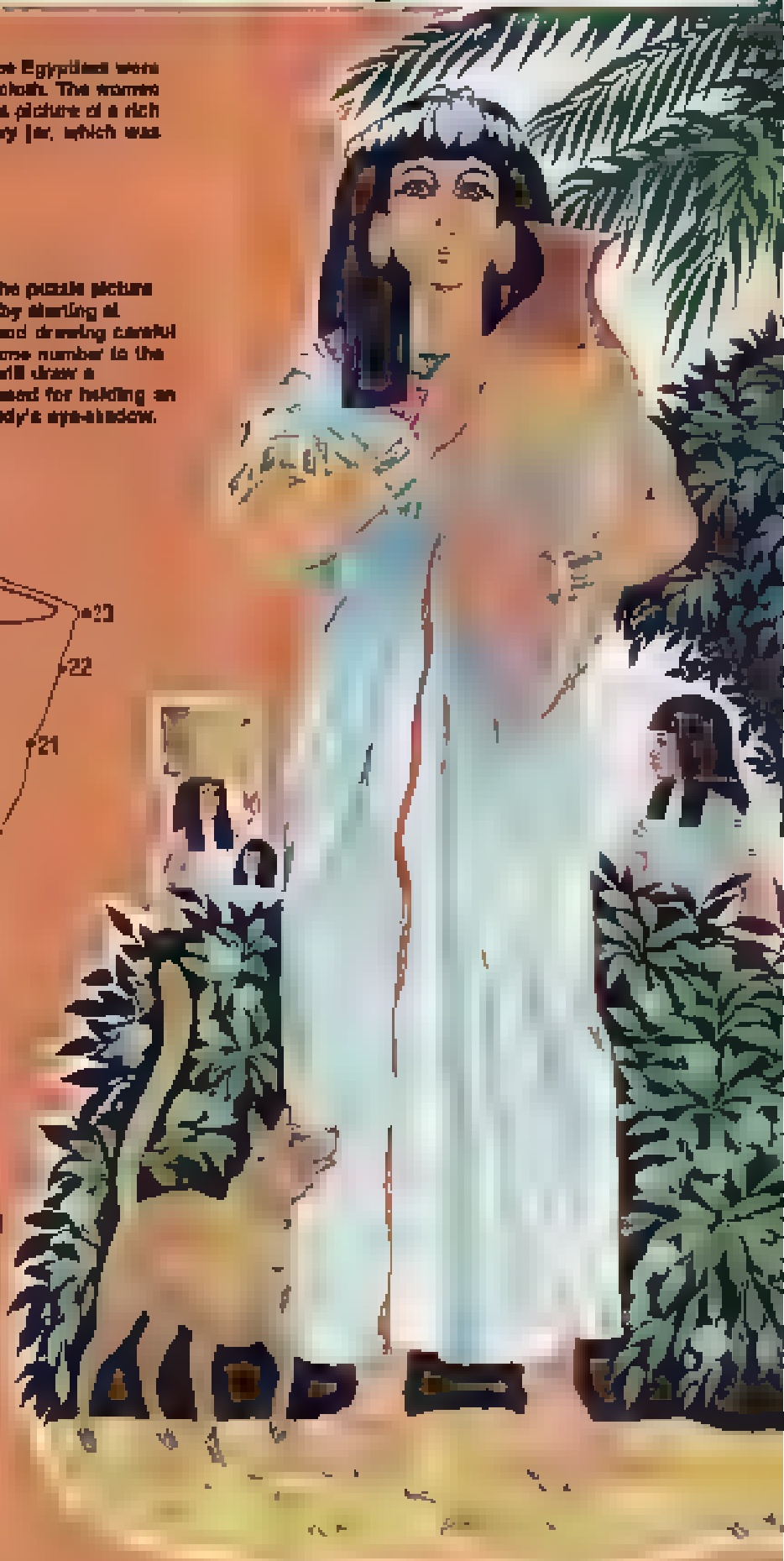
Egyptian Lady

In the older days, even about three thousand years ago, the Egyptians were clever enough to grow their own cotton for spinning into cloth. The women liked to wear jewellery and make-up, as you can see in this picture of a rich Egyptian lady. She is holding in her hands a large pottery jar, which was used sometimes for carrying sweet-scented oil.

Complete the puzzle picture on the left by starting at number 1 and drawing careful lines from one number to the next. You will draw a container used for holding an Egyptian lady's eye-shadow.



Start again at Number 1 and complete the picture above to draw a lovely chair made of boxwood and ebony.



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

I was getting towards Christmas in the town where Stephanie, the town mouse, lived. Stephanie—or Steve, as she called herself in town—was wondering what to make for her Christmas party.

she said. "And know the food I have ordered is being better than theirs. What else can I do to make it clear that I am the best mouse in town?"

Stephanie's boyfriend, Nigel, thought for a moment, then he said:

"Well, Steve, old thing, when I was a young mouse, the nicest thing about Christmas always

Nowadays people have coal fires or gas fires and

always preferred to be called "young thing," you see. "Nigel! Do you know that for a blockhead, sometimes you are quite clever!" laughed Stephanie.

But, as Stephanie was to discover, getting in a big supply of logs, in the middle of town, just when the cold weather was starting was not easy.

"There is only one thing to do. I shall have to go out into the country to see my country cousin, Winifred. It must be easy to get

logs are just logs still joined together. So Nigel got out his fine car and drove Stephanie

Tootle-toot-toot!

In a moment Winifred came bustling out, wiping flour from her hands on to her apron.

"Heavens! Ste's at her never-ending cake making

she'll ask us if we want a nice cup of tea—

Oh really, Winifred," snorted Stephanie. "Don't you ever think of anything but choking people with

to make us gulp down some of your fattening home-made cakes?"

Stephanie was always very rude about Winifred's nice ways.

But Nigel said: "Thank you, Winifred. I'll have a cup of tea and some cakes, please."

as many cakes as anyone else.

was just as they were finishing tea that the mice heard a plod, plod, squeak, squeak—plod, plod, squeak, squeak.

They looked out of the window and saw Bertie plodding along, pushing a squeaking wooden cart through the squeaky snow—and piled on top of the

blazing fire.

"Look!" squeaked Stephanie in a very pleased voice. "Logs! Who would have thought that a country bumpkin like Bertie could have brought me exactly what I wanted at exactly the right time!"

—Nigel was annoyed.

"No one would have thought it, because I haven't."

she doesn't call me a country bumpkin!

Next week read how Stephanie gets just ONE log, but is still happy.

YOUR CHRISTMAS LETTER

Hello, Boys and Girls

now and I hope that among your list of presents for

There are the suggestions which the story "Stephanie and Nigel" has given you. I hope you will find them useful.

Write on the separate sheet the story "Stephanie and Nigel" has given you. I hope you will find them useful.



ALI BABA and the Forty Thieves



1. Trapped inside the treasure cave of the Forty Thieves, Ali Baba's greedy brother Cassim tried again and again to remember the magic words Ali Baba had told him—the only words which had the power to open the door of solid rock.

2. But nothing Cassim said made the great door even start to open. There was no other way out of the robbers' cave and Cassim knew that he was a hopeless prisoner. "Open! Open! Please open!" he wept, beating his fists against the rock.



3. Not knowing that anyone had discovered their secret, the Forty Thieves were returning to the cave. With them they brought much gold, which they had gained by robbing rich merchants. They planned to put it in the cave with the rest.



4. But when they reached the spot they saw Cassim's mules with empty baskets. "What means this?" roared the robber chief. "Can it be that someone is within the cave? If that is so, whoever has betrayed our secret will not pass it off."



6. "Open, Sesame!" the robber chief commanded. These were the magic words Cassim had failed to remember. The great door opened and Cassim was revealed inside the cave. He trembled with fright as the eyes of the forty thieves fixed upon him.



8. Cassim had not returned home by the following day, so his anxious wife went to Ali Baba and confessed that her greedy husband had gone to the secret cave, intending to load mules with gold. "Please find out what has happened to him," she asked.

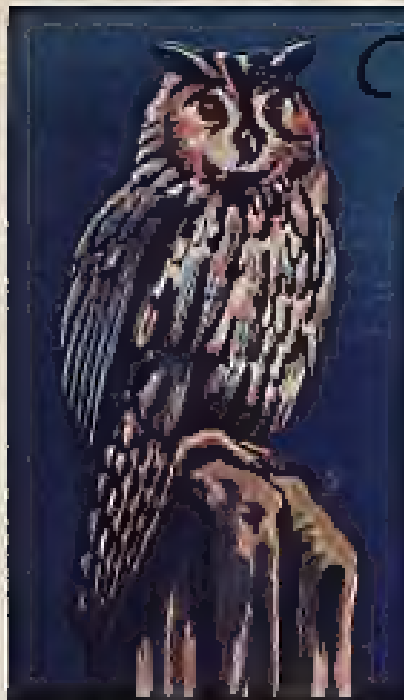


7. Ali Baba had a kind heart and though he was unhappy to learn of his brother's greed, he promised to help. And so he once again set off with his donkey for the cave of the Forty Thieves. "If Cassim is there I will find him," he said.



8. Ali Baba searched the great rock but there was no sign of Cassim. "Perhaps I should look inside the cave," he thought. As the robber chief had done, he faced the wall of rock. "Open, Sesame!" he said firmly, and the rock began to open.

What will be revealed to Ali Baba in the secret cave? More of this exciting story next week.



The WISE OLD OWL

Knows all the answers

Interesting answers to puzzling questions asked by children (and their parents, too).



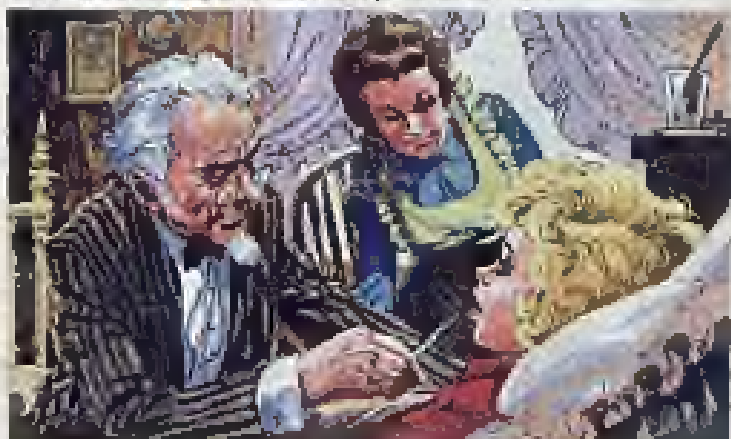
1. What is an Angel Fish?

"Angel fish live in rivers in some hot countries where the water is warm. They have large, colourful fins which are so beautiful that people think they are like the wings of angels. There are several kinds of angel fish and some of them can be kept in a heated aquarium at home."



2. What is a Coat of Arms?

"A coat of arms is a badge belonging to a noble family or city. It dates back to the days when a knight in armour carried his badge, or 'arms', as it was then called, on his shield or on a long coat worn over his armour, so that he could be known at once to other people. Schools also often have a coat of arms."



3. Why does a doctor put a thermometer in my mouth?

"The glass thermometer which the doctor puts under your tongue when you are not feeling well measures the temperature, or heat, of your body. The doctor needs to know if the heat of your body is too high or too low. This helps him to find out what is wrong with you and why you are not feeling well."



4. What is a battlement?

"If you look at the top of a castle wall, you will see that it is often shaped like a row of teeth. In olden days, if the castle was attacked, the defenders would stand for protection behind these 'teeth', or battlements, and shoot their arrows down through the gaps at the enemy on the ground below."



5. Is there such a place as the Dead Sea?

"Yes, there is, although what is called the Dead Sea is really a large lake. It is in desert country between Israel and Jordan. The Dead Sea is so salty that neither fish nor worms can live in its waters, and that is how it got its name. If you went for a swim in such salty water you would float very easily."